GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2738
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2005
PROPOSAL TO BAN MANSANTOS BT. COTTON
Ponnuswamy Shri Mohan

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the Bt. Cotton requires more pesticides and giveslower yields;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to ban the Mansanto`s Bt. Cotton;

(d) whether the Government has any proposal to force the Mansanto`s Company to compensate the farmers;

(e) if so, whether the Government has tested the effect on cattle and milk since they are regularly fed on cakes made of Bt. Cotton; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) Department of Biotechnology conducted trials on animals like cows, buffalo, poultry and fish and the results indicated that Bt. Cotton has no harmful effect as food or feed on the target animals.

(f) The studies were conducted at National Diary Research Institute (NDRI), Karnal on lactating cows; Department of Animal Nutrition, College of Veterinary Science, G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar on lactating buffaloes; Central Avian Research Institute (CAR!), Izatnagar on poultry; and Central Institute of Fisheries Education (CIFE), Mumbai on fish.